

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of forming an axle assembly having a hollow member. A hollow member such as a cylindrical tube is formed into a polygonal cross-section having an end portion. Bulkheads may be located into the hollow member prior or after the polygonal forming step to improve proximate strength and transfer suspension bending moments. The end portions are formed to receive a preformed king pin boss having an end portion of approximately the same size as the frustoconical end. The members are welded together and the king pin and hollow member are bent to a desired axle shape. In another method sequence, the kingpin boss is directly formed into the end of the hollow member.

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